

INTELLIGENCE ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
REPORT

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letter of 16 October 1978 from the
Director of Central Intelligence to the
for the Bureau of the States.
with Earlier Years

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1. After an evaluation of the harvest of 1946-1947, German authorities determined that in the Russian Zone the 1946 harvest, compared with that of previous years, had fallen off heavily. Individual Lands and Provinces also showed considerable decline: about fifty percent lower than the good harvests of 1938 and about thirty percent lower than the averages of the war years 1940-1944. The decrease was larger in Mecklenburg-Vorpommern and Brandenburg than in the other Lands, a situation attributed to lack of tractive power and to lowered soil cultivation. The exact figures are:

100 kilograms/hectares	1938	Average 1940-44	1946
Grain	27,0	22,0	12,5
Leguminous vegetables	20,3	13,0	12,0
Potatoes	184,0	160,0	113,0
Sugar beets	287,0	272,0	162,0

Grain	21,6	18,0	9,2
Leguminous vegetables	14,7	17,5	7,0
Potatoes	177,0	145,0	98,0
Sugar beets	305,0	269,0	135,0

2. In individual special localities, these figures were considerably lowered, as, for example, in Mecklenburg the harvest of winter wheat in 1946 was only twenty-five percent of the 1938 harvest and only 43.4 percent of the average war yield. In Brandenburg for the same crops, the figures are 33.2 percent of the 1938 harvest and 40.8 percent of the average war year harvests. In both lands, turnip production declined fifty-three and forty-six percent from the 1938 and the 1940-44 average respectively. Rape reached only twenty-one percent of the war year harvest in Mecklenburg-Vorpommern and thirty-eight percent in Brandenburg. These two provinces had been previously composed of large estates and were particularly strongly affected by the land reform.

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3. Saxony-Anhalt in 1938 harvested 290 kilograms of beet sugar per hectare, an average of about 288 kilograms in the war years, and in 1946 only about sixty-six percent of the latter figure.
4. Poor harvests in the first place are attributed to inappropriate orders from regional headquarters. In many cases, an increase in amounts for delivery was arbitrarily imposed by Russian commandants. With crop and delivery arrangements thus disrupted, seed grain was collected. Requisitions up to 100 percent of the harvest were set for 5 September or 1 November 1946. In some places where a hundred percent delivery of turnips and potatoes was demanded and carried out, the peasants had to be furnished with bread cards.
5. Seriously short harvests reached only twenty-two, twenty-three, forty, or fifty percent of prescribed deliveries. The principal causes of shortages were the seizure of seedcorn stocks, turnip plants, and vegetables, and the reaping of seedgrain fields for consumption purposes. A second cause was the damage to grain occasioned by the fact that loading of grain had to be carried on during the rainy season as well as after threshing. The arbitrary harvesting of sugar beets before the potato harvest had a disadvantageous effect on the growth of the sugar beets. As a result of the seizure of seedgrain, the winter planting was short. Also because of the shifting of threshing to the time of the autumn planting, in some places up to fifty percent of the soil had to be left uncultivated. In consequence of orders incompatible with the climate, the hoeing crops (potatoes, turnips, and cabbages) were endangered by the incidence of night frosts.
6. The lack of tractive power appeared in one official district in Kreis Neubrandenburg-Mecklenburg in the following comparison:

Normal condition of tractive power	Current available tractive power
15 Steam power (Dampfsätze)	4 Steam power
2000 Horses	700 Horses
200 Tractors.	25 Tractors

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